



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

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June 15, 2007

Public Health & Emergency Preparedness Bulletin: # 2007:23
Reporting for the week ending 06/09/07 (MMWR Week #23)

Current Threat Levels:

National: Yellow (ELEVATED) *The threat level in the airline sector is Orange (HIGH)
Maryland: Yellow (ELEVATED)

REVIEW OF DISEASE SURVEILLANCE FINDINGS

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE CASE REPORTS (confirmed, probable and suspect):

Meningitis:	<u>Aseptic*</u>	<u>Meningococcal*</u>	*(non-suspect cases)
New cases:	* Data not yet released from Division of Communicable Disease Surveillance		
Prior week:	* Data not yet released from Division of Communicable Disease Surveillance		
Week#23, 2006:	5	-	

2 outbreaks were reported to DHMH during MMWR Week 23 (June 3-June 9, 2007):

1 Respiratory illness outbreak

1 outbreak of ACUTE FEBRILE RESPIRATORY DISEASE associated with a Nursing Home

1 Rash illness outbreak

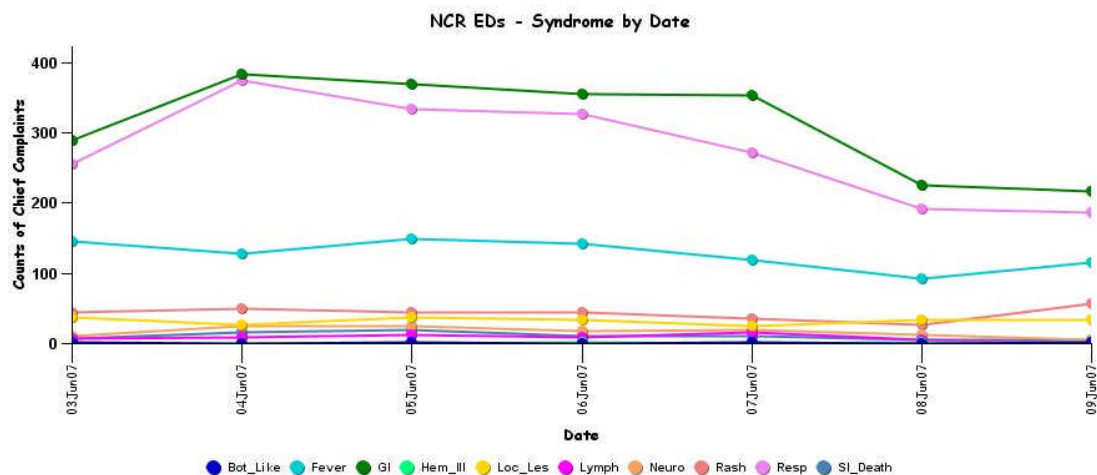
1 outbreak of SCABIES associated with a Nursing Home

SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE REPORTS:

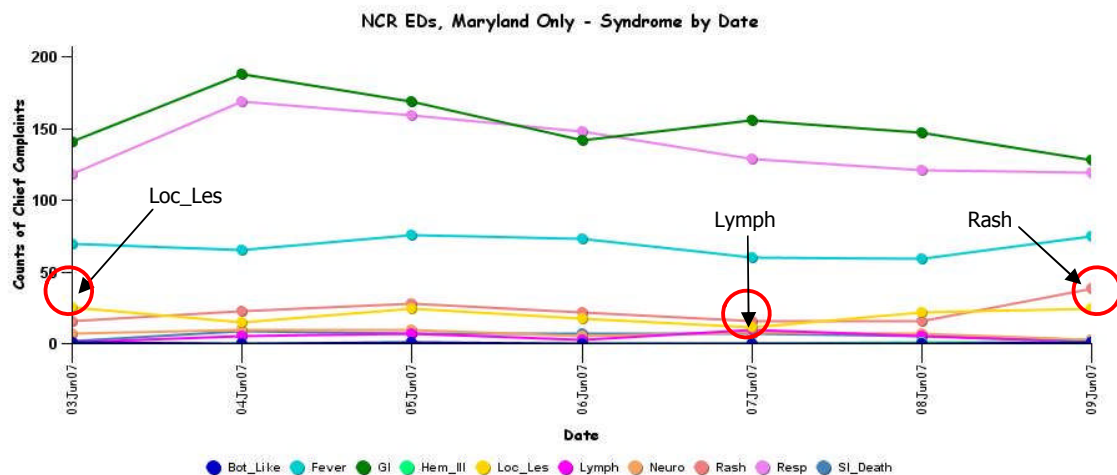
ESSENCE (Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics):

Graphical representation is provided for all syndromes, excluding the "Other" category, all age groups, and red alerts only.

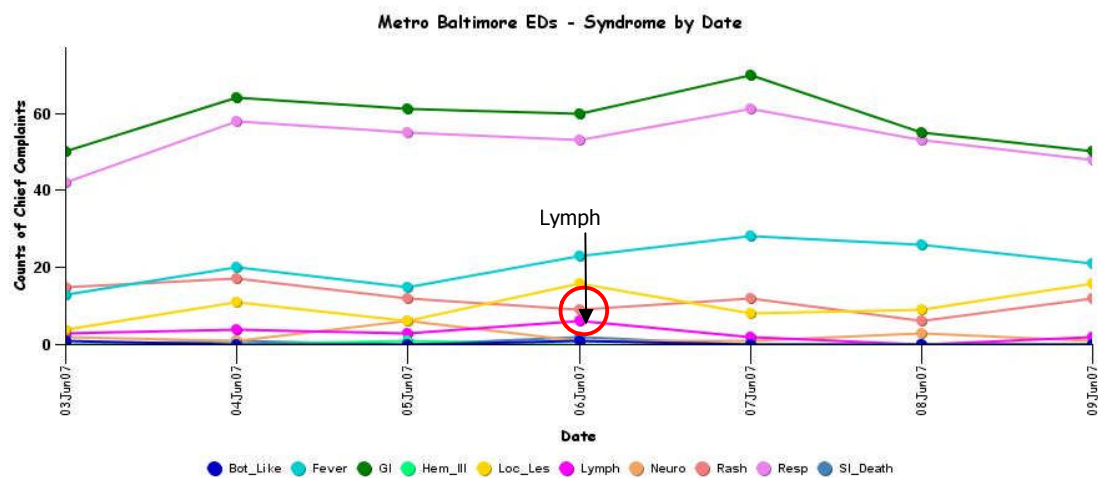
Overall, no suspicious patterns of illness were identified. Track backs to the health care facilities yielded no suspicious patterns of illness. * Note: ESSENCE – ANCR Spring 2006 (v 1.3) now uses syndrome categories consistent with CDC definitions.



* Includes EDs in all jurisdictions in the NCR (MD, VA, DC) under surveillance in the ESSENCE system

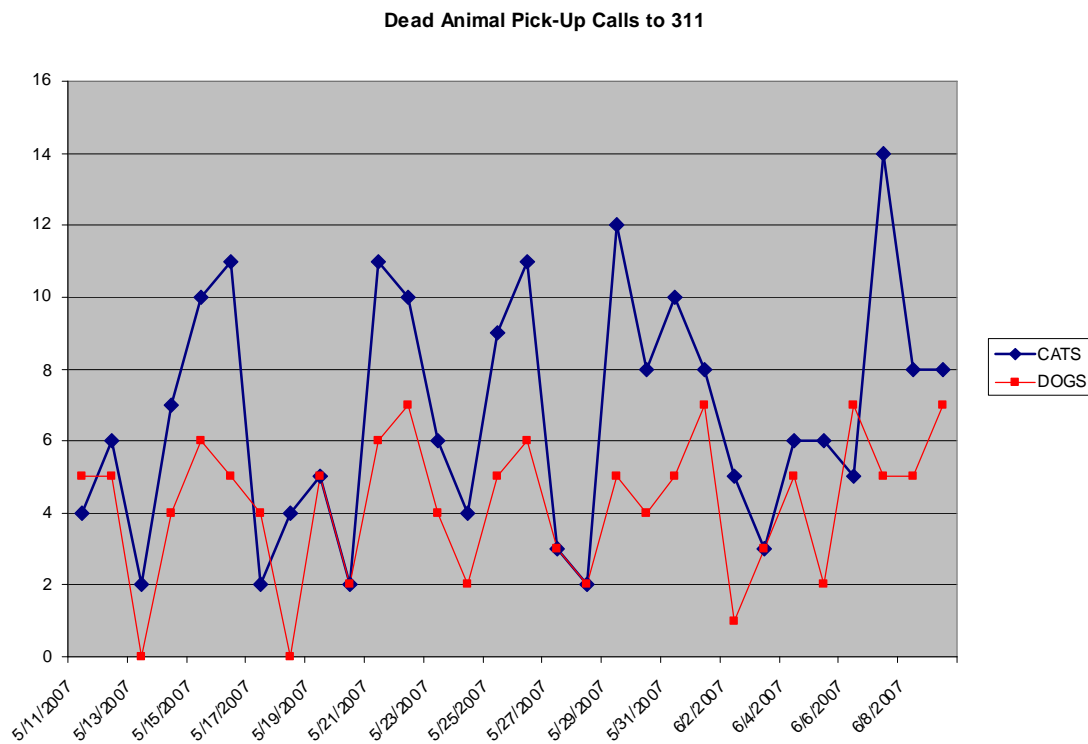


* Includes only Maryland EDs in the NCR (Prince George's and Montgomery Counties) under surveillance in the ESSENCE system



* Includes EDs in the Metro Baltimore region (Baltimore City and Baltimore County) under surveillance in the ESSENCE system.

Baltimore City Syndromic Surveillance Project: No suspicious patterns in the medic calls, ED Syndromic Surveillance and the animal carcass surveillance. Graphical representation is provided for animal carcass surveillance 311 data.

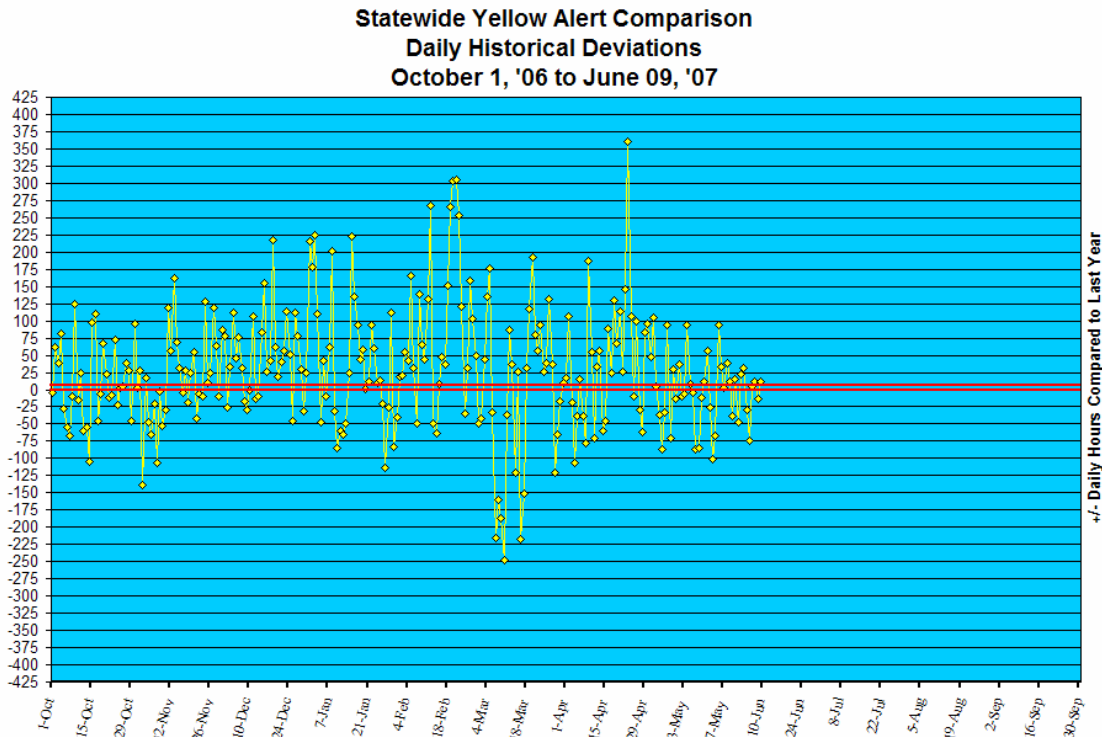


REVIEW OF MORTALITY REPORTS:

OCME: OCME reports no suspicious deaths related to BT for the week

REVIEW OF EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT UTILIZATION

YELLOW ALERT TIMES (ED DIVERSION): The reporting period begins 10/01/06.



NATIONAL DISEASE REPORTS:

BOTULISM, WOUND, DRUG-RELATED (Washington): 3 Jun 2007, A man has died of the 2nd case of wound botulism in 2 months in Yakima County, and health officials believe both are linked to black tar heroin. The latest victim, 22, died on May 28, a week after being diagnosed with botulism in the emergency room at Yakima Regional Medical and Cardiac Center, Yakima Health District officials said. He was homeless and had been living by the Yakima River, and health officials were unable to locate relatives. The other case occurred in March 2007, and the victim survived. Wound botulism is caused by neurotoxins following an infection with *Clostridium botulinum*, a bacterium whose spores sometimes can be found in black tar heroin that is contaminated with soil and feces. Heating heroin before injecting it doesn't necessarily inactivate the spores, which can germinate into bacteria that produce toxin once in the body. Marianne Patnode, communicable disease services coordinator, said the county typically sees about 2 cases of wound botulism a year, but they are rarely fatal. Four drug users in Yakima County were treated for wound botulism in 2003. Like the one who died May 28, they injected black tar heroin under the skin surface. Those who inject heroin intravenously or into the muscles appear to be at lower risk, said Dr. Christopher Spitters, the county's health officer. (Botulism is listed in Category A on the CDC list of Critical Biological Agents)* Non-suspect case

E. COLI O157, GROUND BEEF (Western USA): 6 Jun 2007, Supervalu Inc said on Jun 4 that it was recalling some ground beef sold in its Albertsons and Save-A-Lot stores because it is believed to be contaminated with *E. coli*. Most of the products were sold under the Moran's label at Albertsons stores in California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming and Save-A-Lot stores in Arizona, California, and Nevada. The recalled products had sell-by dates from April 20 through May 7. It included Moran's brand meat sold in 1- to 5-pound varieties under 'UPC' numbers 34779 60501, 34779 60000, 34779 96000, 34779 91000, 34779 60010, 34779 96194, and 34779 21117. Also recalled was Albertsons 90/10 Sirloin fresh hamburger patties. The Supervalu recall stems from a recall announced Jun 3 by meat supplier United Food Group LLC of 75,000 pounds of contaminated ground beef. In addition to the Supervalu stores, the United Food recall included meat sold at Grocery Outlet, Fry's, Save-Mart, Smart and Final, Smith's, and Stater Bros stores. Nationally, 11 people have gotten sick in the outbreak that led to the United Food Group recall. (Food Safety

Threats are listed in Category B on the CDC list of Critical Biological Agents)* Non-suspect case

PLAGUE, HUMAN, SECONDARY PNEUMONIC (New Mexico): 7 Jun 2007, A Torrance County woman was listed in critical condition Jun 5 with plague. The state Department of Health said the 58 year old woman developed bubonic plague, which progressed to plague pneumonia. The department did not say where the woman was hospitalized. Officials are investigating her home to determine if there is a risk to other people. It was the 2nd case of plague confirmed in New Mexico in 2007. A San Juan County man recovered after being infected in April 2007. Plague, a bacterial disease of rodents, usually is transmitted to humans through the bites of infected fleas. However, it can be transmitted by direct contact with infected animals, including rodents, wildlife, and pets. Prompt treatment with antibiotics can greatly reduce the fatality rate. Septicemic plague, which occurs when the bacteria multiply in the blood, can have symptoms of high fever, abdominal pain, and diarrhea. Most people become ill 2 to 7 days after being infected. "With the warmer weather there will likely be an increase in plague activity in wild rodents, especially in the north central and north western parts of the state, where we have traditionally found most of the plague activity in New Mexico," said Dr Paul Ettestad, the Health Department's public health veterinarian. New Mexico had 8 cases of human plague, 2 of them fatal, in 2006. The department recommends prevention measures, including avoiding sick or dead rodents; teaching children not to play near rodent nests or burrows, treating pets regularly with flea control products, cleaning up areas near houses where rodents could live; and keeping pets from roaming. (Plague is listed in Category A on the CDC list of Critical Biological Agents)* Non-suspect case

E. COLI O157, GROUND BEEF, EXPANDED RECALL (Western USA): 8 Jun 2007, Arizona state health officials told CNN on Jun 7 that 13 cases of infection with E. coli O157:H7 may be linked to a multistate beef recall. No deaths have been reported in connection with the recall, but 4 people are hospitalized, according to United Food Group (UFG), which greatly expanded the recall on Jun 6. UFG says illnesses were reported in 5 states: 3 in California, 4 in Arizona, 2 in Colorado, and one each in Wyoming and Utah. But Michael Murphy, spokesman for Arizona Department of Health Services, said that health officials had identified 6 cases in that state and, "in at least 2, we definitely tied them to eating ground beef," he said. The beef linked to those 2 cases is a few days outside the recall dates announced by United Food Group, but test results indicate it was contaminated with E. coli, Murphy said. UFG "may want to consider expanding the recall dates," he said. The company announced on Jun 6 that it had expanded the recall of its ground beef products sold in 11 states to nearly 5 times the original amount. The recall was expanded to include 445,000 pounds of beef suspected of being contaminated. The tubes of ground beef were distributed to 13 supermarket chains: Albertson's, Basha's, Grocery Outlet, Fry's, "R" Ranch Markets, Sam's Club, Save-A-Lot, Save-Mart, Scolari's Wholesale Markets, Smart and Final, Smith's, Stater Bros, and Superior Warehouse Club supermarkets. The meat was produced in Vernon, California on April 13 and sold under the brand names of Moran's All Natural, Miller Meat Company, Stater Bros, Inter-American Products Inc, and Basha's, with sell-by dates from April 20 to May 7. Stores in 11 states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and Montana, sold the product. Sam's Clubs in California, Arizona, and Nevada were the only stores belonging to that chain stocked with the recalled product. (Food Safety Threats are listed in Category B on the CDC list of Critical Biological Agents)* Non-suspect case

PLAGUE, HUMAN, FATAL (New Mexico): 8 Jun 2007, A 3 year old Bernalillo County boy has died of bubonic plague, marking the 1st fatal case of the disease in New Mexico in 2007. The state Health Department made the announcement on Jun 7. The city of Albuquerque's Environmental Health Department and the state Health Department are conducting an investigation at the boy's home in the East Mountain area to determine if there is any risk to other people. The boy was the 3rd plague case in New Mexico in 2007. The 1st, in late April 2007, was a man from San Juan County who recovered, and the 2nd was a woman from Torrance County who is still hospitalized. (Plague is listed in Category A on the CDC list of Critical Biological Agents)* Non-suspect case

INTERNATIONAL DISEASE REPORTS:

ANTHRAX, HUMAN, LIVESTOCK (India): 3 Jun 2007, Anthrax has killed 6 people and affected 32 in a tribal-dominated Orissa district in the past fortnight, say officials. All the deaths took place in Koraput district. The victims contracted the disease after eating rotten buffalo meat, officials said. Two people from the Paraja and Sirimunda village, some 500 km from there, died of the disease on May 20-21, while 4 more succumbed later, chief district medical officer K. Haribandhu Reddy said. He said other people infected with the disease were now out of danger, as a team of doctors was camping in these 2 villages. Anthrax usually affects cattle but passes on to humans if they eat contaminated meat. The disease, if not diagnosed early, can be fatal. (Anthrax is listed in Category A on the CDC list of Critical Biological Agents)* Non-suspect case

SALMONELLOSIS, FOODBORNE (Russia): 4 Jun 2007, Another 10 people have been hospitalized with food poisoning in the Stavropol Territory over the past day, bringing the number of hospitalized people to 78, including 15 children. Doctors estimate the condition of the sick people as moderate to severe. Symptoms have included fever, nausea, and headache. A source in the main emergencies department in the Stavropol Territory told Itar-Tass that the 1st cases of poisoning cases had been registered on May 26. It was found out that all hospitalized people had become ill after eating cakes bought at several food stores and small marketplaces. The producer of the implicated products, a private confectioner's shop, was found. Laboratory tests showed that salmonellae, which cause an acute infectious intestinal disease, were found in the cakes. (Food Safety Threats are listed in Category B on the CDC list of Critical Biological Agents)* Non-suspect case

SALMONELLA SENFTENBERG, BASIL (Europe): 5 Jun 2007, Officials from the Israeli Ministries of Health and Agriculture are investigating whether a shipment of basil grown in Israel is responsible for several cases of salmonella infection in Europe. On Jun 4, the ministry received reports of the discovery of the Senftenberg strain of salmonellosis infecting several dozen people in England, Scotland, Denmark, and Holland within a few months. An epidemiological inquiry led researchers abroad to suspect that the source of the poisoning was basil originating in Israel. Following the report, the Ministry of Health located all Israeli exporters who sent basil shipments to the locations in question during the estimated time window and narrowed the investigation to 3 exporters. Agricultural officials are currently examining soil and product samples from all 3 and the results are expected on Jun 6. Health officials have already finished testing the irrigation water for the fields in question and no abnormalities were found. (Food Safety Threats are listed in Category B on the CDC list of Critical Biological Agents)* Non-suspect case

E. COLI O157, RESTAURANT (Canada): 6 Jun 2007, An Escherichia coli outbreak linked to a Merritt Street restaurant has hospitalized 4 young Niagara residents, including a 2 year old. Public health officials closed Yaman, located at 491 Merritt St, at noon on Jun 5 and are asking anyone who has eaten there since May 17 to call the health department at 905-688-3762. So far, 4 young patients, ranging in age from 2 to 16 years, are infected with E. coli O157. "We have a fairly serious level of concern here, especially for children," said Dr Doug Sider, the Niagara Region's associate medical officer of health. Infected children under the age of 5 are especially susceptible to complications leading to kidney failure, Sider said. One of the patients has been sent home, but 3 remain hospitalized. Other family members will be monitored for symptoms, and Sider said he expects the department will test dozens of other customers. Sider said the public health department received its 1st report of illness on the weekend and the latest on Jun 4. All 4 victims, from 3 families spread across the region, ate at the restaurant during a short timeframe, Sider said. It's too early to know the source of the outbreak, he added, but investigators will test food samples, review food handling practices and talk to staff in the next few days. (Food Safety Threats are listed in Category B on the CDC list of Critical Biological Agents)* Non-suspect case

BOTULISM, SEAFOOD (Canada): 8 Jun 2007, The Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Poissonnerie Lelievre, Lelievre et Lemoignan Ltee are warning people not to consume clams and cod liver sold in mason jars because these products may be contaminated with spores of a dangerous bacteria, Clostridium botulinum. The CFIA says toxins produced by these bacteria may cause botulism, a life-threatening illness. The affected products were sold only from the Poissonnerie Lelievre, Lelievre et Lemoignan Ltee retail outlet, 52, rue des Vigneaults, in Sainte-Therese-de-Gaspé, QC. The products were packed in mason jars, which do not have any lot codes, UPC codes or best-before dates. There have been no reported illnesses associated with the consumption of these products. The products, manufactured by the store which sold them, are being voluntarily recalled and the CFIA is monitoring the effectiveness of the recall. (Botulism is listed in Category A on the CDC list of Critical Biological Agents)* Non-suspect case

AVIAN INFLUENZA-RELATED REPORTS

WHO update: The WHO-confirmed global total of human cases of H5N1 avian influenza virus infection as of 6 June 2007 stands at 310, of which 189 have been fatal.

AVIAN INFLUENZA, HUMAN (China): 4 Jun 2007, As of Jun 4, the Ministry of Health in China has informed WHO of the country's 16th death from H5N1 avian influenza. A 19 year old male soldier serving in Fujian province died on Jun 3. Of the 25 laboratory-confirmed cases in China, 16 have been fatal.

AVIAN INFLUENZA H7N2, HUMAN (United Kingdom): 6 Jun 2007, Health officials say that the outbreak of a mild form of bird flu, which affected 17 people in north Wales, has ended. The 1st case of avian flu was found last month, in poultry on a smallholding near Cerrigydrudion, Conwy. At its height, 252 people who may have come into contact with the virus were being monitored. The National Public Health Service for Wales (NPHS) said there was "no more risk," but investigations would continue into the outbreak and its causes. A 1 km restriction zone was put in place around the smallholding at Llanfihangel Glyn Myfyr on May 24, after the "low pathogenic" H7N2 strain of bird flu was confirmed in chickens that died there. Health officials stressed the disease found was not the more virulent H5N1. Tests were carried out on people who may have come into contact with the farm and eventually, 252 people were monitored. Of those, 17 people suffering conjunctivitis or a flu-like illness were identified with the bird flu virus. Health officials confirmed on Jun 5, that those who had been in possible contact with infected birds, or who had been ill, were now out of the 7 day incubation period for the flu virus.

AVIAN INFLUENZA, HUMAN (Indonesia): 6 Jun 2007, As of Jun 6, the Ministry of Health of Indonesia has announced a new case of human infection of H5N1 avian influenza. A 16 year old female from Kendal district, Central Java province developed symptoms on May 21, was hospitalized on May 25, and died in hospital on May 29. Initial investigations into the source of her infection indicate exposure to dead poultry. Of the 99 cases confirmed to date in Indonesia, 79 have been fatal.

AVIAN INFLUENZA, LPAI H7N2 (United Kingdom): 8 Jun 2007, Tests have provided positive results for low pathogenic avian influenza in poultry on a non-commercial smallholding near St Helens, Lancashire, England. Birds at the holding were purchased on May 7, from the market held in Chelford associated with the recent outbreak of H7N2 low pathogenic avian influenza in Conwy, North Wales. Fred Landeg, deputy chief veterinary officer said, "The tests were

carried out as part of the normal tracings activity which is under way following the outbreak in Wales. This is an extensive exercise, and this is the only premises to date with evidence of infection." A restricted zone has been put in place extending 1 km from the holding. Animal Health is tracing movements and contacts, and all the birds at the holding will be slaughtered. The necessary surveillance and all appropriate worker protection measures have been put in place. Defra is working closely with the Health Protection Agency on all potential human health aspects.

AVIAN INFLUENZA, HUMAN (Egypt): 9 Jun 2007, A 10 year old Egyptian girl who contracted the H5N1 bird flu virus died on Jun 9, bringing the number of fatalities from the disease in the most populous Arab country to 15, the health ministry said. The girl is reported to have fallen ill on Jun 1 after coming into contact with infected household birds but did not enter hospital until roughly a week later, delaying potentially life-saving treatment. Her case followed a nearly 2 month warm weather lull in human bird flu cases in Egypt, where 35 people are known to have contracted the virus since it was 1st detected in Egyptian poultry in early 2006. The Egyptian health ministry said in a statement that the girl, from the southern town of Qena, had been admitted to hospital on Jun 7 with a high fever and a pulmonary infection, and was put on an artificial respirator. Most of those who have fallen ill in Egypt were reported to have had contact with sick or dead household birds, primarily in northern Egypt where the weather is typically cooler than in the south. But in a sign of a change in how the disease may be occurring in Egypt, all but 2 of the past 11 human cases have occurred in central or southern parts of the country. Bird flu experts in Egypt have said they would typically expect fewer human cases of the disease during Egypt's sweltering summer months, and in 2006 there was a summertime lull in human cases between May and October.

*Cases and outbreaks will be cited for suspect level with regards to suspicion of BT threat. Therefore, cases and outbreaks will be categorized as "Determined BT", "Suspect" or "Non-suspect".

NOTE: This weekly review is a compilation of data from various surveillance systems, interpreted with a focus on a potential BT event. It is not meant to be inclusive of all epidemiology data available, nor is it meant to imply that every activity reported is a definitive BT event. International reports of outbreaks due to organisms on the CDC Critical Biological Agent list will also be reported. While not "secure", please handle this information in a professional manner. Please feel free to distribute within your organization, as you feel appropriate, to other professional staff involved in emergency preparedness and infection control.

Questions about the content of this review or if you have received this and do not wish to receive these weekly notices, please e-mail me. If you have information that is pertinent to this notification process, please send it to me to be included in the routine report.

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